

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 207

Topic: Special Benefit

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

With regard to Special Benefit:

- a. How many people received this payment in 2012-13? Can you provide a breakdown by adjusted taxable income where possible, and whether these were short or long-term recipients?
- b. How many of these recipients received the maximum rate of payment?
- c. How many recipients also received the Pensioner Education Supplement?
- d. How many recipients also received the Education Entry payment?
- e. What is the average duration of this payment in 2012-13?

Answer:

- a. At May 2013, there were 5,501 Special Benefit recipients. Adjusted taxable income data is not available. There were 627 short term (in receipt of Special Benefit for less than three months) and 4,874 long term (in receipt of Special Benefit for greater than three months) Special Benefit recipients.
- b. At May 2013, there were 988 Special Benefit recipients receiving the maximum rate of payment.
- c. The Pensioner Education Supplement is the responsibility of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.
- d. The Education Entry Payment is the responsibility of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.
- e. At May 2013 the average duration on Special Benefit was 2.3 years.